

(II) Claim 46, directed to a formula comprising $(R^3R^4)_nSi(X^2)_{4-n}$ (Formula II) monomer units formed as a composite with one of the group consisting of $X^3_{3-a}-SiR^5_bR^6_cR^7_d$, $X^4_{3-e}-SiR^8_fR^{10}_h$ or $X^5_{3-i}-SiR^{11}_jR^{12}_kR^{13}_l$ (Formulas III-V, respectively), from which a composite polymer is formed.

Applicants elect the subject matter of group (I) claims 1-23 and 48, for prosecution in this application. This election is made without traverse with the understanding that the applicants' rights under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 121 to the filing of a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter are retained.

An election of species is also required between:

- (A) Claims 1-22 and 48 made from a low-k polymer derived from $(R^1R^2)_nSi(X^1)_{4-n}$ monomer units; and
- (B) Claim 23 employing a method of hydrolyzing a compound formed of $(R^1R^2)_nSi(X^1)_{4-n}$ monomer units with another silicon compound.

Applicants elect Group (A) as the species. This election is also made without traverse.

Claims 1-22 and 48 are believed to read on the elected species.